



Australian Bureau of Statistics

2902.0 - Census Update (Newsletter), Apr 2002

ARCHIVED ISSUE Released at 11:30 AM (CANBERRA TIME) 01/05/2002

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The DPC - Efficiency in processing

By Paul Lowe, Director, Census Data Processing Centre

The Census **Data Processing Centre** (DPC) is a large temporary office established in an old historic wool store in Ultimo, NSW. Over 850 staff are employed to process the 136 shipping container loads of 2001 Census forms that are returned from the field to the site.

For the 2001 Census, new technology has been introduced in order to make the process more efficient and, at the same time, improve the quality of the final data that is produced. This technology has included scanning the forms and processing the resultant images through Intelligent Character Recognition Software and automatic coding systems. The scanning of the Census forms has been a great success with the images from over 117 million pages now captured.

Census processing is on schedule with the first phase now complete. This first phase is First Release Processing, where the population counts and a wide range of basic demographic data (e.g. birthplace, religion, ancestry) are processed. Now that the first phase has been completed, Second Release Processing has commenced. In this phase the more complex topics such as occupation, industry, and educational qualifications are processed.

Over 50% of the responses for these topics are being automatically coded through the new software package developed by the ABS. The remainder still require an operator to examine the response and code it using computer assisted coding. Second Release Processing is on track to be completed by the middle of this year.

All of the staff at the DPC are focused on achieving a high quality result. The following DPC vision statement truly represents the esprit de corps that has developed in the office: Through professionalism and dedication, our team will achieve excellence in processing the 2001 Census to provide a foundation for improving Australia's future.

At the ABS we realise the importance users place on census data, so you'll find that the staff at the DPC are engaged and focused on achieving their vision of excellence in processing the 2001 Census.

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Orders for customised tables are still being taken

As the Advance Order Service (AOS) is now closed, ABS information consultants are able to take your orders for 2001 Census customised tables.

Although these orders will be placed in the "queue" after the AOS customers, planning and specifying the tables you require early will enable them to be delivered promptly following the release of the data you request. Ordering early has particular time-saving advantages for clients requiring large and/or complex tables.

The **Census Table Specification Service (CTSS)** will be available throughout the census cycle. This service operates on a user-pays basis, allowing you to order census information tailored to your needs. Data is available down to small area level (i.e Collection District) or for a geography of your choice. You can also order customised census maps, geographic reports and profiles.

If you would like to be contacted by an information consultant regarding customised tables, please call the National Information and Referral Service on **1300 135 070** or email **client.services@abs.gov.au** with your contact details.

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Census Data Launch Brought Forward to June 2002

The ABS is pleased to announce that the planned release of 2001 Census data has been brought forward to June 2002. This early release marks the shortest time between collection and dissemination of census data ever achieved.

The **first release of 2001 Census data** will occur on **Monday 17 June 2002**. This release is one month earlier than what was achieved for the 1996 Census.

There will be various products and services available from launch day which will include:

- Basic Community Profile (first release) was July 2002 **now June 2002**
- Indigenous Profile (first release) was July 2002 **now June 2002**
- National Selected Characteristics (first release) for SSDs was July 2002 **now June 2002**
- Census Snapshots (first release) free web based product was July 2002 **now June 2002**
- Census Basics (first release) data only CD-ROM was July 2002 **now June 2002**
- Census Guide (second release) was July 2002 **now June 2002**.

Follow this link for a complete listing of indicative **release dates for all 2001 Census products and services**.

The BCP (first release) for SLAs and above will be freely available from the ABS web site as of the launch date.

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2001 Directory of Census Statistics out now!

Released early in February 2002, the **2001 Directory of Census Statistics** provides you with a preview of the products and services available from the 2001 Census.

With the first major data release occurring in June 2002, the Directory provides you with a description of the proposed products and services and an indicative price list. The Directory also contains helpful census related reference material including:

- data items from the 2001 Census
- 2001 Geographic Structure
- how census data can be used; and
- common census terminology.

**** All Census Update subscribers should have received a copy of the Directory with this issue of Census Update. If you are not a subscriber, didn't receive a hardcopy or would like additional copies call the Census Marketing Unit on **1800 818 939** or email us at **client.services@abs.gov.au**.**

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The data release countdown has begun...

The 2001 Census of Population and Housing was conducted on Tuesday 7 August 2001. All forms have been processed and ABS is now just a few short months away from the release of the first data. This Census will see more data than ever before provided free to the community through the ABS web site. Data will be progressively released to the ABS web site from June 2002. Read on to find out just what will be available.

What data can you expect to access free via the web site?

Basic Community Profiles

The ABS web site will provide all Basic Community Profiles (BCPs) with geography down to Statistical Local Area (SLA) level for all of Australia. Clients will be able to access information on their area of interest via an intuitive, drill-down map interface incorporating key geographical identifiers. Tables will include counts of people by sex, age, marital status, income, family and dwelling characteristics to provide a profile of the area selected.

Main Findings

The web site will also provide, free of charge, the main findings from the publications series:

- Selected Social and Housing Characteristics (Cat. Nos. 2015.0 - 8)
- Selected Education and Labour Force Characteristics (Cat. Nos. 2017.0 - 8)
- Selected Characteristics for Urban Centres/Localities (Cat. Nos. 2016.0 - 7)

Census Snapshots

Census Snapshots provide readily accessible summary information for selected areas and have been developed with casual users and the media in mind. This summary information is extracted from BCP tables and can be readily adapted for reports or used as a ready reference. Some time series information is also provided for comparison of the characteristics of selected areas over time.

Access to Census Snapshots is very simple. You can either drill-down using area names or by map interface enabling users to select areas of interest. Snapshots will be available for:

- Australia;
- States and Territories;
- Capital City Statistical Divisions; and
- Statistical Local Areas

CENSUS SNAPSHOTS ARE AVAILABLE FROM JUNE 2002

CLIB 2001 - The Census in your Library

CLIB 2001 is an electronic product provided free of charge to members of the ABS Library Extension Program (LEP). CLIB 2001 contains a large volume of tabulated data and software that allows access, display and printing of the data. It will be available as both a CD-ROM and as a limited access Internet based product. CLIB 2001 will contain the entire Community Profile Series and Classification Counts.

CLIB 2001 IS AVAILABLE FROM NOVEMBER 2002

Help is a mere click away

There will be a large amount of data available via the web site, including a wide range of reference and advisory information such as:-

- **2001 Directory of Census Statistics** - a guide to the products and services from the 2001 Census
- **2001 Census Dictionary** - contains definitions and classifications
- **Census working papers** - data quality reports to be released on the web as they become available)
- **Census Fact Sheets** - data concepts (to be released on the web as they become available)
- **How Australia Takes a Census**
- **information papers**
- **product briefs**
- **release timetables**
- **FAQs**
- **product demonstrations** (CDATA 2001 demonstration coming soon!)

AVAILABLE NOW!

Access to census data will be available by simply logging onto the ABS web site at **www.abs.gov.au/census**.

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Post Enumeration Survey

The 2001 Census of Population and Housing was held on Tuesday, 7 August 2001. While every effort is made to ensure full coverage of people and dwellings in the census, inevitably small numbers of people will have been missed while others will have been counted more than once. In Australia more people are missed from the census than are counted more than once. The net effect of overcount and undercount is called **net undercount**.

To measure net undercount the ABS conducts a Post Enumeration Survey (PES) shortly after the census. Phil Browning, PES Group Leader at the Data Processing Centre and responsible for the processing phase of PES, explains that this is a sample survey (similar to the Monthly Labour Force Survey) that aims to provide an independent check of the census coverage (i.e. the extent of the undercount of Australia's population). The survey uses a sample of two-thirds of 1% of private dwellings in Australia.

In PES processing, the information collected in the PES is matched against corresponding census forms for those dwellings to determine whether a person has been counted more than once or not counted at all.

Results obtained in the PES are then used to add value to census counts by producing Estimated Resident Population (ERP) for Australia. ERP also includes residents temporarily overseas on Census night, and is backdated to 30 June 2001 using births, deaths, interstate and overseas migration data. ERP is the official ABS estimate of the Australian population, as used in allocating seats in parliament and distributing \$35 billion of taxpayer funds. ERP based on the 2001 Census is due for release on 6 June 2002.

The ABS will produce data on three distinct population concepts based on the 2001 Census:

- Census counts by place of enumeration
- Census counts by place of usual residence
- Estimated resident population.

To find out more about Census products, publications and service, read the very informative **2001 Directory of Census Statistics**.

For more on population issues, try the **Demography theme pages** on the ABS web site.

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CDATA 2001 - Your Census at Work

Regular users of census data will be aware of the benefits of **CDATA 96**, but for existing and new CDATA users, the latest edition **CDATA 2001** will have even more capabilities. Due for release in September 2002, CDATA 2001 has many benefits for users, which will outlined in this special feature article.

CDATA 2001 is being developed jointly by the Australian Bureau of Statistics and MapInfo Australia. It combines the most recent, comprehensive information on Australian society - the 2001 Census data - with powerful mapping software, MapInfo Professional version 7.0.

By having Australian demographic data at your fingertips, you will have access to a wealth of information on our community - age, education, housing, income, transport, ethnicity, occupation, computer usage, religion and much more.

The benefit of CDATA 2001 is that it will let you choose the specific demographic characteristics you require, rather than having to select from pre-defined output. To gain the knowledge, you'll need the power of CDATA 2001.

CDATA 2001 will enable you to identify and analyse business opportunities, choose the best location to take advantage of these opportunities, and have a better understanding of your market.

With CDATA 2001, you will be able to view the data in reports, maps and graphs.

The ABS has developed two CDATA 2001 options:

- **CDATA 2001 - Full GIS** (Geographic Information Systems); and
- **CDATA 2001 - Quickbuild**

CDATA 2001 satisfies a wider range of users' requirements through the two options, which offer different levels of functionality and flexible pricing.

CDATA 2001 - Full GIS

CDATA 2001 - Full GIS is aimed at those people who have a need for extensive GIS functionality. This option allows you to:

- conduct detailed analysis using Structured Query Language (SQL),
- export statistical data in a variety of formats for use in other applications, and
- import your own data.

With the powerful mapping software that is part of this comprehensive package, clients can undertake more complex tasks and analysis. CDATE 2001 - Full GIS enables you to analyse, integrate and visualise census data.

A full MapInfo Professional licence is included with CDATE 2001 - Full GIS.

CDATA 2001 - Quickbuild

CDATA 2001 - Quickbuild contains simplified GIS functionality. This option enables users to select data quickly and easily for geographic areas and view the results as tables, maps or graphs. It is ideal for inexperienced and intermediate GIS users who wish to build a statistical profile of an area quickly.

Both CDATE 2001 options include standard Base Map Data which shows details such as major roads, rivers and railway lines. This detail will enable you to identify major landmarks or features to help you create your own customised regions.

Contents of CDATE 2001 releases

CDATA 2001 has two data releases. Release One is due in September 2002 with the Second (and final) Release scheduled for June 2003. Clients who purchase CDATE 2001 receive both releases.

Release 1

- 2001 Basic Community Profile, first release data (at Collection District (CD) level and above)
- 2001 Digital Statistical Boundaries
- Digital Base Map data
- 1991 & 1996 Census data (at Statistical Local Area (SLA) level on 2001 boundaries)
- Full MapInfo Professional software licence
- 2001 Census Dictionary in electronic form plus interactive on-line help

Release 2

- Basic Community Profile, second release data (at CD level)
- 1991, 1996 & 2001 Time Series Profile (at SLA level) on 2001 boundaries
- Additional boundary data (Urban Centre/Locality)
- Interface for Add-On Datapaks

Interested in having a sneak preview of CDATE 2001?

An online demonstration of CDATE 2001 is currently being developed and will be available from the ABS web site shortly. Watch out for the online demonstration on [**www.abs.gov.au/census**](http://www.abs.gov.au/census).

Prices for CDATE 2001 (inc. GST)

Geography	CDATA 2001 - Full GIS	CDATA 2001 - Quickbuild
Australia	\$10,600	\$6,300
NSW, Vic or Qld	\$8,500	\$5,000
SA or WA	\$8,000	\$4,500
Tas, ACT or NT	\$7,000	\$4,000

Discounts are available for bulk purchases. Prices may be subject to change.

Get in early and enjoy the benefits

Clients who purchase a CDATE 2001 option now and who have an immediate need for Census data can request a free data-only CD-ROM, Census Basics, which will be supplied upon official release of census data in June 2002. So be one of the first to purchase CDATE 2001 and enjoy the benefits of Census data in June before CDATE 2001 arrives in September 2002.

To purchase or obtain more information call the National Information and Referral Service now on **1300 135 070** or email **client.services@abs.gov.au**.

Case Study: The Department of Transport, South Australia

CDATA96 was used to analyse and provide a geographical representation of the changing distribution of population in regional South Australia between 1986 and 1996. The study focused on the five statistical regions of South Australia outside the metropolitan area:

1. Murray Lands and South East
2. Lower North
3. Yorke
4. Eyre
5. Northern.

Population data from the 1986 and 1996 Censuses was analysed by Urban Centres and Rural Localities (UCLs) and the balance of the rural population in each Local Government Area. With CDATE, it was possible to select the specific Urban Centre/Rural Locality boundaries and rural balances for each region.

Additional census information from the ABS was imported into CDATE96. This was made easy by simply importing the data from Excel and then linking the geographical references to the census boundaries. Once the information had been imported into CDATE and linked to the census boundaries, a number of thematic maps were developed.

Each thematic map showed the population change for Urban Centres, Rural Localities and rural balances. CDATE enable us to show the population changes for rural balances as one layer and the UCLs as another layer."

The department said that CDATE96 was a useful tool in the manipulation and analysis of the data. It provided them with the ability to see and highlight population changes within South Australia at a detailed geographic scale.



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e-commerce has begun!

The first stage of e-commerce on the ABS web site has now commenced. As of 4 March 2002, ABS clients can purchase a wide range of products on-line.

What can be purchased online?

All charged downloadable products, plus paper maps showing 2001 Census boundaries.

Products that can be purchased & downloaded immediately:

- all ABS Publications (in .pdf format)
- Time Series Spreadsheets (in .wks format)
- Spreadsheets (in .xls format)
- SuperTABLEs (in .srd format)
- 1996 Census Basic Community Profiles (in zipped .xls format).

Products which can be purchased using e-commerce, but which will be posted to clients:

- Maps showing 2001 Census boundaries (available now).

Is purchasing online from the ABS secure?

All personal information collected by the ABS as part of this process is kept secure and is used only to complete the transaction.

How online purchasing works on the ABS web site

To purchase products online from the ABS web.site, follow these 3 easy steps:

1. Add products to your shopping cart.
2. Pay for purchases.
3. Download electronic products (paper products ordered will be posted to you).

Payment for purchases is processed through the Commonwealth Bank of Australia.

More information on e-commerce is available on-line.

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Census Data and Technical Services - Your Census Data "Link"

Between the input of data by the **Data Processing Centre** (DPC) and the collation of Census products, millions of cells of data pass through the work processes of the CDATS (Census Data and Technical Services) team. Six people make up the Canberra based team, whom provide the "link" between the DPC and other census areas.

The responsibilities of the CDATS team involve ensuring that the Census data, in its entirety, are loaded to the storage database in a logical and orderly manner. The CDATS unit shares the responsibility with the DPC for the vital task of checking and re-checking the accurate compilation of data into the 180 classifications that make up the 2001 Census output. It requires considerable time, effort and effective coordination to ensure that the entire process runs as smoothly as possible.

In addition to the loading and validation processes, the CDATS team is responsible for ensuring the stability of both the database and the tabulation system, so that the required data can be accessed quickly and accurately. Members of the team must have a good working knowledge of the various classifications used in the Census and of the conceptual issues associated with the collection, processing and dissemination of Census information.

The end result of the work undertaken by this team is a complete and secure database from which cross-classified tables can be derived quickly and easily. Once the CDATS team has completed the processes described above and has ensured the effective operation of the database and the tabulating software, the information is made available to the teams responsible for the creation of Census products, such as the Community Profiles and statistical publications. Simplistically, the CDATS team provides the "link" between the input and output processes. After "handover" the CDATS unit has a continuing role, maintaining and supporting the system and providing expert advice to users of the data as the situation warrants.

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Year Book Australia 2002 out now!

The **Year Book Australia 2002** provides the perfect insight into our nation and its people. It provides a comprehensive picture of Australia's economic and social conditions as revealed by the various statistical collections undertaken by the ABS.

The information contained in the Year Book includes population, income, housing, education, crime, industry, tourism and economic statistics and more. The Year Book is our most popular general title and an invaluable first point of call when you need to find out the facts.

Every chapter in the Year Book includes extensive explanatory or background material that allows you to add context to the statistical information presented. In addition, there are a number of special articles that focus on areas of current interest.

This year, the special articles include:

- household income, living standards and financial stress
- combining study and work
- understanding agricultural exports data
- research and development in IT and communications industries
- price impacts on living costs
- studies of merchandise trade.

You can order your copy now by phoning **1800 813 939**, or print out this **order form** and send it to us.

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